

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 19 has been amended to address the Section 112 rejection.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under Section 102(b) as being anticipated by either Zimmer or Ohashi. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of former claim 2 and additionally the feature that the first and the second connecting bridges are formed so that the first connecting bridge tears first before the second connecting bridge tears as a result of the impact force.

These new features are disclosed in paragraphs 9, 10 and 19 of Applicants' specification. An advantage of the new windshield wiper device is that there is a defined subsequent tearing of the first and the second connecting bridge. This results in a continued movement of the molded tube out of the impact area. This reduces the risk of hurting a pedestrian falling on the molded tube.

Claim 7 has been amended to additionally include the feature whereby the molded tube is connected by at least first and second connecting bridges to the holding element, whereby the first and second connecting bridge are formed so that the first connecting bridge tears first before the second connecting bridge tears. This new feature was also added to claim 1.

Claim 16 has been amended to additionally included the feature that the first connecting bridge tears first before the second connecting bridge tears. This new feature was also added to claim 1.

The three amended independent claims have the same advantage that the tearing of the first and second connecting bridge is predetermined in a specific way which means that first the first connecting bridge tears and afterwards, the second connecting bridge tears. This provides a continued movement of the molded tube out of the impact area. Therefore, a pedestrian falling onto the molded tube will be hurt less.

Neither Zimmer nor Ohashi discloses a molded tube which is connected by two connecting bridges to a holding element or a stub, whereby the first and the second connecting bridges are formed in such a way that the first connecting bridge tears first before the second connecting bridge tears as a result of the impact force.

Neither Zimmer nor Ohashi gives a person skilled in the art any suggestion to modify the windshield wiper system of Zimmer or the windshield wiper system of Ohashi to obtain the

system specified by the amended independent claims. Therefore, independent claims 1, 7 and 16 are allowable.

The remaining claims depend from claims 1, 7 and 16 are therefore allowable. The dependent claims also include additional patentable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, entry of the above amendment and allowance of claims 1-20 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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